

1      **CLAIMS**

2      1. A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable  
3      instructions for:

4              evaluating data transmission conditions;  
5              selecting, based on the evaluation of the data transmission conditions, data  
6      transfer rates;

7              selecting buffer size values for transmission to a receiver, wherein each of  
8      the buffer size values is based on one of the selected data transfer rates; and

9              selecting initial buffer fullness requirements, based on the selected data  
10     transfer rates and the selected buffer size values.

11  
12      2. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, additionally  
13      comprising instructions for:

14              transmitting data to a plurality of clients at one of the selected data rates;  
15      and

16              configuring the data transmitted to include information, in lower  
17      transmission layers of a channel, which indicates to the plurality of clients a  
18      degree of robustness.

19  
20      3. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, additionally  
21      comprising instructions for:

22              generating a descriptor, comprising the selected data transfer rates, the  
23      buffer size values, and the initial buffer fullness requirements; and

24              multiplexing the descriptor with audio and video data.

1       4. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, additionally  
2 comprising instructions for generating a descriptor comprising multiple sets of (R,  
3 B, F)-tuples.

4  
5       5. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, additionally  
6 comprising instructions for:

7           generating a descriptor, comprising a set of selected data transfer rates,  
8 buffer size values, and initial buffer fullness requirements; and  
9           transmitting the descriptor to a client.

10  
11       6. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 5, additionally  
12 comprising instructions for:

13           transferring the descriptor to the client as part of a request-response  
14 protocol over a bi-directional channel.

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16       7. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 5, wherein:  
17           the descriptor is configured for MPEG compatibility; and  
18           the descriptor is multiplexed with the audio and video data at regular  
19 intervals.

1       8. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 5, additionally  
2 comprising instructions for configuring syntax for the descriptor according to:

```
3       sd_profile_level() {  
4           subdescriptor_tag  
5           profile_level  
6           bm_params_count  
7           for(i=0; i<bm_params_count; i++){  
8             reserved  
9             bit_rate_value  
10            reserved  
11            vbv_buffer_size  
12        }  
13    }.
```

14  
15       9. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein  
16 selecting data transfer rates comprises additional instructions for:

17           reducing an overall bit-rate of a transmission when increasing robustness of  
18 a portion a communications channel; and

19           increasing the overall bit-rate of the transmission when decreasing  
20 robustness of the portion the communications channel.

21  
22       10. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein  
23 evaluating data transmission conditions comprises instructions for evaluating  
24 environmental impediments to RF transmission.

1        11. A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable  
2 instructions for transmitting robust data from a transmitter to a receiver, the  
3 processor-executable instructions comprising instructions for:

4                establishing a rate of data transmission and a level of redundancy;  
5                specifying parameters, including the rate, for operation of a buffer on the  
6 receiver; and

7                transmitting the parameters at intervals to the receiver.

8  
9        12. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 11, wherein  
10 establishing the rate of data transmission comprises further instructions for:

11                evaluating environmental conditions as an input to establishing the rate of  
12 data transmission; and

13                selecting between discrete rates of data transmission based on the  
14 environmental conditions.

15  
16        13. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 11, wherein  
17 specifying parameters comprises instructions for:

18                specifying a minimal buffer size for the buffer on the receiver; and  
19                specifying a value for initial buffer fullness prior to data removal for the  
20 buffer on the receiver.

1       14. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 11, wherein  
2 specifying parameters comprises instructions for:

3           specifying a value for initial buffer fullness prior to data removal for the  
4 buffer on the receiver based on size of the buffer on the receiver and on the rate of  
5 data transmission.

6

7       15. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 11, wherein  
8 establishing the rate of data transmission and the level of redundancy comprises:

9           making a bit stream available to a first portion of a communications  
10 channel to have greater robustness; and

11           making the bit stream available to a second portion of the communications  
12 channel to have lesser robustness.

13

14       16. A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable  
15 instructions for configuring a receiver to receive data, the processor-executable  
16 instructions comprising instructions for:

17           obtaining a descriptor comprising values for rate, buffer size and initial  
18 buffer fullness;

19           configuring a buffer within the receiver according to the descriptor; and

20           removing data from the buffer when the buffer reaches the initial buffer  
21 fullness.

22

23       17. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 16, additionally  
24 comprising instructions for obtaining the descriptor from a request-response  
25 protocol over a bi-directional channel.

1  
2       **18.** A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 16, additionally  
3 comprising instructions for obtaining the descriptor from a broadcast signal  
4 transmitting the descriptor repeatedly at intervals.

5  
6       **19.** A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 16, additionally  
7 comprising instructions for:

8           measuring signal quantities;  
9           selecting between a main portion of a channel or a robust portion of the  
10 channel depending on the signal quantities.

11  
12       **20.** A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 19, wherein  
13 measuring signal quantities comprises instructions, selected from a group of  
14 instructions, for:

15           measuring a signal-to-noise ratio;  
16           measuring a carrier-to-noise ratio;  
17           measuring an average signal energy level;  
18           measuring a number of corrupted data packets in a given time window;  
19           measuring peak energy;  
20           measuring run-length of corrupted data packets; and  
21           measuring residual energy in an equalizing filter.

1       **21.** A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 16, additionally  
2 comprising instructions for:

3           using a main portion of a channel, having conventional robustness, when  
4 acquisition conditions are acceptable; and

5           switching to a robust portion of the channel when quantities calculated to  
6 indicate signal conditions indicate deterioration.

7  
8       **22.** A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 21, wherein  
9 switching to a robust portion comprises instructions for:

10           using buffer parameters contained within the descriptor to adjust the buffer  
11 according to a rate of the robust portion of the channel; and

12           moving data from the robust portion of the channel into the buffer.

13  
14       **23.** A transmitter, comprising:

15           a robust transmission selection module to select a rate of data transmission  
16 based on a review of environmental conditions;

17           video and audio encoders to encode data at the selected rate of data  
18 transmission;

19           a descriptor generator to generate a descriptor reflecting buffer parameters  
20 associated with the selected rate for use by a receiver; and

21           a multiplexer to multiplex the descriptor with the encoded data.

1       **24.** The transmitter of claim 23, wherein the descriptor generator  
2 generates a descriptor, comprising:

3           the selected rate;  
4           a buffer size to be configured by the receiver; and  
5           an initial buffer fullness value.

6

7       **25.** The transmitter of claim 23, wherein the descriptor generator is  
8 configured to generate multiple sets of (R, B, F)-tuplets.

9

10      **26.** The transmitter of claim 23, wherein the descriptor generator is  
11 configured to generate the descriptor according to the syntax:

```
12       sd_profile_level() {  
13           subdescriptor_tag  
14           profile_level  
15           bm_params_count  
16           for(i=0; i<bm_params_count; i++){  
17             reserved  
18             bit_rate_value  
19             reserved  
20             vbv_buffer_size  
21           }  
22       }.
```

23

24       **27.** The transmitter of claim 23, additionally comprising a system  
25 information inserter to pass the descriptor to the multiplexer at intervals.

1  
2       **26.** The transmitter of claim 27, wherein the system information inserter  
3 passes the descriptor to the multiplexer approximately twice per second.

4  
5       **27.** The transmitter of claim 23, wherein the robust transmission  
6 selection module configures a portion of a communication channel for increased  
7 robustness and configures another portion of the same communication channel for  
8 a typical level of robustness.

9  
10      **28.** A receiver, comprising:  
11           logic configured for detecting a descriptor;  
12           logic configured for obtaining (R, B, F) values from the descriptor; and  
13           logic configured for setting a receiver buffer according to the (R, B, F)  
14 values.

15  
16      **29.** The receiver of claim 28, wherein the logic configured for detecting  
17 the descriptor comprises logic configured for obtaining the descriptor from a bi-  
18 directional channel.

19  
20      **30.** The receiver of claim 28, wherein the logic configured for setting the  
21 receiver buffer comprises logic configured for reconfiguring the receiver buffer in  
22 response to new or updated (R, B, F) values.

1       **31.** A method of moving data from a transmitter to a receiver,  
2 comprising:

3           detecting conditions requiring redundancy;  
4           selecting from among available discrete rates by which data can be  
5 transmitted, wherein the selected rate provides redundancy sufficient for the  
6 conditions detected;  
7           generating a descriptor comprising the selected rate, a minimum required  
8 buffer size and a required initial buffer fullness;  
9           multiplexing the descriptor and the data; and  
10          transmitting the multiplexed data to the receiver.

11  
12       **32.** The method of claim 31, additionally comprising:

13           inserting the descriptor into the multiplexed data at least one time per  
14 second.

15  
16       **33.** The method of claim 31, additionally comprising configuring, using  
17 the descriptor, a buffer within the receiver to receive the multiplexed data.

1           **34.** A receiver, comprising:

2           detecting a descriptor within data transmitted by a transmitter;

3           monitoring reception characteristics and statistics, to select between  
4 conventional and robust channels within the transmitted data to reliably receive  
5 data;

6           obtaining data transmission rate information and identifying a  
7 corresponding set of buffer parameters from the descriptor;

8           configuring memory resources and flow control logic to provide elementary  
9 stream acquisition according to guidelines embodied by buffer parameters  
10 associated with the selected transmission channel; and

11           buffering the received data until a buffer contains more than an initial  
12 buffer fullness value included within the buffer parameters.

13

14           **35.** The receiver of claim 34, additionally comprising instructions for  
15 reconfiguring the memory resources and the flow control logic upon receipt of a  
16 descriptor having updated data.

17

18           **36.** A transmitter, comprising:

19           means for evaluating data transmission conditions;

20           means for specifying (R, B, F) parameter values comprising rate, buffer  
21 size and an initial buffer fullness in response to the evaluated data transmission  
22 conditions;

23           means for creating a compressed bit stream using an encoder; and

24           means for combining the (R, B, F) parameter values with the compressed  
25 bit stream in a multiplexer.

1           **37.** The transmitter of claim 36, additionally comprising:

2           means for generating a descriptor comprising multiple sets of (R, B, F)-

3           tuples; and

4           means for transmitting the compressed bit stream and the descriptor to a  
5           plurality of clients a selected data rate.

6

7           **38.** The transmitter of claim 36, additionally comprising:

8           means for generating a descriptor, comprising the specified data transfer  
9           rates, the buffer size values, and the initial buffer fullness requirements; and

10

11           means for multiplexing the descriptor with audio and video data.

12

13           **39.** A receiver, comprising:

14           means for detecting a descriptor within transmitted data;

15           means for deciding, by monitoring reception characteristics and statistics,  
16           which conventional and robust channels within the transmitted data to select to  
17           reliably receive audio, video and data elementary streams;

18           means for determining a data transmission rate and for identifying a  
19           corresponding set of buffer parameters from the descriptor;

20           means for configuring memory resources and flow control logic to provide  
21           elementary stream acquisition according to guidelines embodied by buffer  
22           parameters associated with the selected transmission channel; and

23           means for decoding the transmitted data when a buffer contains greater than  
24           an initial buffer fullness value found within the buffer parameters.

1       **40.** The receiver of claim 39, wherein the means for configuring  
2 memory resources and flow control logic reconfigures the buffer upon receipt of a  
3 descriptor having updated data.

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